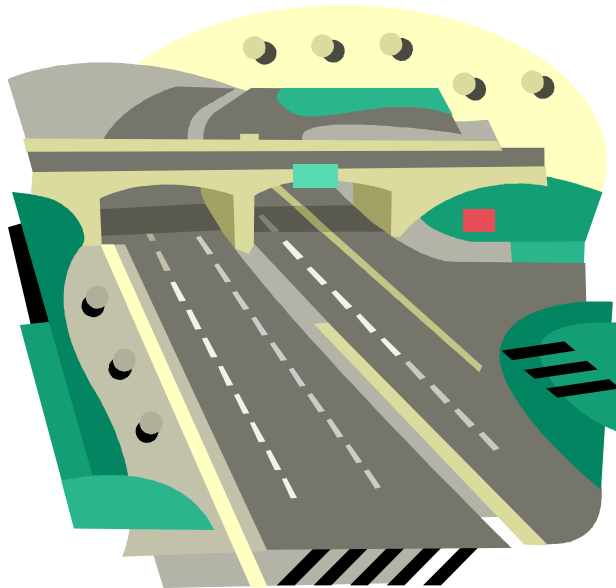


ACCESS TO WASHINGTON HIGHWAYS

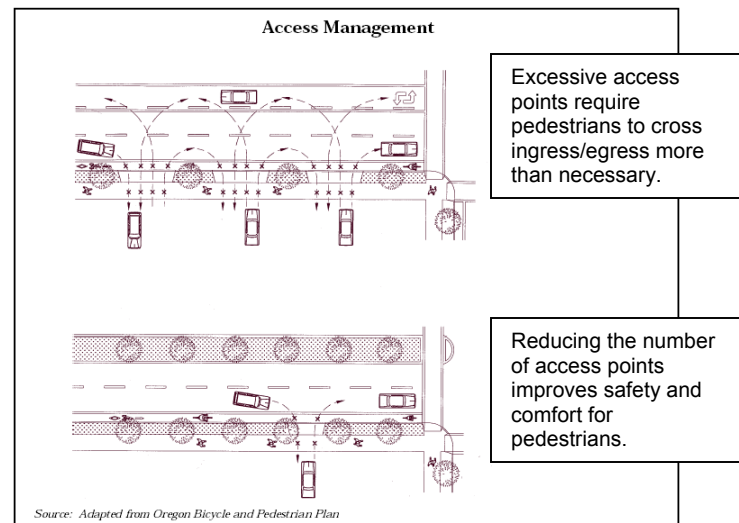


Access Management

Many of us have experienced the frustrations and dangers of driving on a highway where driveways are too close together or there is no defined driveway entrance/exit. Whether these driveways lead to businesses, farms, or residences, vehicles turning onto and off of a highway can create safety hazards for through traffic and pedestrians.

While growth and development are typically desired to enhance region economics, such advancements often result in an abundance of access points located close together causing an increase in conflicts between land use and highway traffic growth. These conflicts, coupled with traffic congestion and collisions, can be very frustrating to the traveling public.

Managing access is a cost-effective way to help maintain the safety, capacity, and functional integrity of a highway. In some instances, without the implementation of such measures, the highway ultimately may even have to be relocated as the only way to restore safe and efficient operations and well-spaced highway access.



Managing Access Results in Safer and More Efficient Travel

What is highway access management?

Access management balances traffic movement and land access.

Access management is a tool used to help keep highways from becoming too congested by preserving the safe and efficient flow of traffic on the roadway system while at the same time providing adequate access to adjacent lands.

How is access management achieved?

Access is managed by planning the number and location of driveways and intersections along a highway to help maintain safe, efficient movement of traffic and to provide safer access to and from adjacent property.

Access management applies traffic engineering principles to address the basic questions—when and where access should be located and how it should be designed.

Managed Access designation for state highways.

This form of access management limits the locations where vehicles can have access to and from state highways. Driveways and intersections are regulated on their spacing and numbers.

Managed Access statutes are RCW 47.50 and WACs 468-51 and 468-52.



Access Management on SR 291 – Nine Mile Vicinity

Highway SR 291 in the vicinity of Nine Mile is designated as a Class 4 Managed Access highway. In general, the classification standards for this designation provide one access per parcel and 250 feet between neighboring driveways.

The Washington State Department of Transportation plans to implement Class 4 managed access as part of the *SR 291/Vicinity Nine Mile Safety Improvements* construction project that is currently planned for the summer of 2005.

Benefits of Managing Access to Highways

- Drivers are able to make both local and through trips and travel on highways that are not congested and complicated by unplanned access.
- Property owners and users of adjacent properties have safer access to and from the developments.
- Communities benefit when the need for access to adjacent property is balanced with the need to move through traffic.
- Taxpayers save money because the existing highways are able to carry more traffic, often eliminating or delaying the need for construction of additional lanes or a relocation of the highway.

Enhancements Created by Good Access Management

Good access management enhances many aspects, including communities. Improving access in a community boosts its' character with provisions for sidewalks and defined access locations which ultimately improves pedestrian travel. It also conserves private investment in properties adjacent to the highway, coordinates land use development, lowers vehicular emissions, and provides a positive affect on overall economic vitality.

Other enhancements include:

Safety

- Fewer and less severe collisions
- Reduced auto-pedestrian conflicts

Efficiency

- Less stop and go traffic
- Decreased travel delay and congestion
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Preserves roadway capacity and the useful life of the roadway system

Aesthetics

- More attractive corridors
- Heightened community appearance



Who Benefits from Access Management?

- Motorists
- Pedestrians and Bicyclists
- Bus Riders
- Property Owners
- General Public

American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format—large print, Braille, cassette tape or on computer disk, please call Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service TTY 1-800-833-6388, Tele-Braille 1-800-833-6385, Voice 1-800 833-6384, and ask to be connected to (360) 705-7097.

Civil Rights Act, Title VI Statement to Public

Washington State Department of transportation (WSDOT) hereby gives public notice that is the policy of the department to assure full compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. Persons wishing information may call the WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity at (360) 705-7098.

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